AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Withdrawn) A preparation containing Hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) as an active ingredient, and allowing an effective amount of said factor to be transported to, distributed in, and act on local tissues of a region to which it is administered and tissues around the region, while it reduces transportation, distribution and effect of the factor to the blood and other organs of the body except the region to which it is administered.

Claim 2. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 1 for use in treating and preventing ischemic and arterial diseases.

Claim 3. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 1 or 2 used for intramuscular administration, wherein the region to which it is administered is a muscle.

Claim 4. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 1 or 2 for subcutaneous administration or external application or in the form of a cataplasm, wherein the region to which it is administered is subcutaneous or intraepidermal.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 3 for intramuscular administration, wherein the region to which it is administered is a skeletal or cardiac muscle.

Claim 6. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 1, wherein its transportation to, distribution in and action on muscular tissues representing the region to which it is administered surpass its transportation, distribution in and action on the blood, liver and kidney.

Claim 7. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 1 for intramuscular administration, wherein the maximum concentration in the blood, liver and kidney is a hundredth or less, and a concentration in muscular tissues representing the region to which it is administered is 50 times or more in comparison with the case the same dose of the preparation containing HGF as an active ingredient is administered by intravenous bolus administration.

Claim 8. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 1 for intramuscular administration, wherein AUC in the blood, liver and kidney is a fifth or less, and AUC in muscular tissues representing the region to which it is administered is 50 times or more in comparison with the case the same dose of the preparation containing HGF as an active ingredient is administered by intravenous bolus administration.

Claim 9. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 1 for intramuscular administration for treating or preventing ischemic or arterial diseases of the heart or extremities.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 9 for intramuscular administration for treating or preventing ischemic or arterial diseases of the heart or extremities, wherein the region to which it is administered is a local muscle of an affected region and around it.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 1 for intramuscular administration, wherein a dose is at 0.01 to 500 μg/kg.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 11, wherein the dose is at 0.1 to 10 μg/kg.

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 1, wherein the arterial diseases are arteriosclerosis obliterans.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 1, wherein the ischemic diseases are ischemic heart diseases.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) The preparation according to claim 1, wherein the preparation contains HGF as an active ingredient, and does not contain any substance that binds and absorbs HGF.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A method for treating ~~or preventing~~ ischemic disease of heart or extremities ~~or arterial disease~~ in a patient in need thereof, comprising:

intramuscularly administering to a ~~the~~ patient suffering from said ischemic disease ~~at a region of administration~~, an effective amount of a composition comprising Hepatocyte Growth Factor (HGF) as an active ingredient,

wherein the composition is transported to, distributed in, and acts on tissues that are local to or around the ~~said~~ region of administration, and

wherein the composition has reduced transportation to, distribution in, and effect in blood or bodily organs other than those that are local to said region of administration,

thereby treating said ischemic disease of heart or extremities.

Claims 17-18. (Canceled).

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16 ~~17~~, wherein said composition is administered to ~~muscle is~~ skeletal muscle or cardiac muscle.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16 ~~17~~, wherein the amount of the composition transported to, distributed in, and acting on the muscle is greater than the amount of the composition transported ~~transportation~~ to, distributed ~~distribution~~ in, and effecting the blood, liver, or kidney.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16 ~~17~~, wherein a maximum concentration of said composition in the blood, liver and kidney is a hundredth or less, and a concentration

in said muscle is at least 50 times greater than when said composition is administered by intravenous bolus administration.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16 ~~17~~, wherein AUC in the blood, liver and kidney is a fifth or less, and AUC in said muscle is at least 50 times greater than when said composition is administered by intravenous bolus administration.

Claim 23. (Canceled).

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16 ~~23~~, wherein the region of administration is a muscle local to or around the heart or extremities.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~claims~~ 16 ~~or 23~~, wherein said composition is administered at a dose of 0.01 to 500 μg/kg.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein said dose is 0.1 to 10 μg/kg.

Claim 27. (Canceled).

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~claims~~ 16 ~~or 23~~, wherein said ischemic disease is ischemic heart disease or ASO (arteriosclerosis obliterans).

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~claims~~ 16 ~~or 23~~, wherein said composition does not contain any substance that binds and adsorbs HGF.